

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on June 6, 2005.

Claims ____ are amended, claims ____ are canceled, and claims ____ are added; as a result, claims ____ are now pending in this application.

Interview Summary

Applicant thanks Examiner Lynne Gurley for the courtesy of a telephone interview on _____ 2005 with Applicant's representative John N. Greaves. **[Attorney - Summarize Interview with Examiner]**.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant submitted an Information Disclosure Statement and a 1449 Form on August 5, 2003. Applicant respectfully requests that an initialed copy of the 1449 Form be returned to Applicant's Representatives to indicate that the cited references have been considered by the Examiner.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 3 and 7 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ng (U.S. 5,994,217).

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and requests the Office to consider the following.

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." (*Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987), M.P.E.P. §2131, 8th Ed., Rev. 1).

Claim 1 requires, among others

forming a conductive first diffusion barrier layer above and on the first interconnect ...

These claim limitations therefore require that the conductive first diffusion barrier layer be both above, and on, the first interconnect. Ng does not teach how the Al-Si-Cu structure (contact) at the level of layer 20 is formed. Indeed, the only teaching of an etch that breaches layer 28 is given at column 4, lines 61-62: “the metal layer 28 32 34 is etched using chlorine containing gas” Ng does not teach forming the recess into which is located the Al-Si-Cu structure at the level of layer 20. Ng is therefore devoid of any enabling teaching. One cannot determine whether the layer 28 is formed above and on the Al-Si-Cu structure, followed by an etch. Neither can one determine whether the layer 28 is formed immediately following the formation of layer 24, in which case layer 28 would coat layer 24 in the recess in which is located the Al-Si-Cu structure. FIG. 6 in Ng is also indefinite because layer 28 has no boundary definition coplanar with the Al-Si-Cu structure. Because Ng is not enabled to teach the chronological formation of the layer 28, Ng cannot be enabled to teach “forming a conductive first diffusion barrier layer above and on the first interconnect” (Claim 1). Because Ng does not anticipate claim 1, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

The Office Action has a statement at the bottom of page 2 that is difficult to understand. It states, “[c]learly, in figure 6, the contact is formed in each of the ILD’s to expose the barrier layer (sic)” Because the phrase ends without punctuation, it is not clear to Applicant’s counsel if the phrase was intended to end with the word “layer”. And the assertion is not germane to the limitation of claim 1 of a method to “expose the first conductive diffusion barrier layer” because in Ng, the upper via can only expose layer 34, not the “first conductive diffusion barrier layer”. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 3 and 7 depend from claim 1. Because Ng does not anticipate claim 1, Ng also does not anticipate claims 3 and 7. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 2, 4-6 and 8-17 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ng. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and requests the Office to consider the following.

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure. In re Vaack, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991). (M.P.E.P. § 2143 8th Ed, Rev.1).

The Office Action admits that “Ng lacks anticipation only in not teaching that an organic ILD may be used and that the barrier layers may be formed by electroless plating.” (Office Action at page 3). Since all the elements the claims are admitted not to be found in the cited reference, and since the rejection is based upon a single-reference action, Applicant assumes that the Office is taking official notice of the missing elements from an undisclosed source. Applicant respectfully objects to the taking of official notice, and pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 2144.03, Applicant traverses the assertion of official notice and requests that the Office cite a reference that teaches the missing element. If the Office cannot cite a reference that teaches the missing element, applicant respectfully requests that the Office provide an affidavit that describes how the missing element is present in the prior art. If the Office cannot cite a reference or provide an affidavit, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejections.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney, John Greaves at (801) 278-9171 or the below signed attorney to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

JHPERNG LEU ET AL.

By their Representatives,

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Date Aug. 3, 2005

By Ann M. McCrackin

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Reg. No. 42,858

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 3 day of August 2005.

John D. Gustaf, Wrathell

Name

Ann M. McCrackin
Signature